

would not have included these restrictions in the first place. I think the bottom line is that the Federal Government should be out of the bathrooms.

NOTING THE PASSING OF LUELLA HYATT CLAY

HON. LOUIS STOKES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of Mrs. Luella Hyatt Clay, the mother of our friend and colleague, Congressman BILL CLAY. Mrs. Clay departed this Earth on February 21, 1997, at the age of 94. I am certain that my colleagues in this Chamber and others throughout the Nation join me in expressing our deep sorrow at the loss of BILL's mother. As we mourn her passing, we pause to reflect upon the life of Luella Hyatt Clay.

Mr. Speaker, Mrs. Clay was born in Black Jack and was the second of eight children. At the age of 5, the family moved to what is now St. Louis' Baden neighborhood because St. Louis County did not provide schools for black children. When she was 17, Mrs. Clay married Irving Charles Clay, Sr., a welder. They had seven children and were married 56 years. Mr. Clay died in 1975.

Throughout her life, Mrs. Clay was devoted to her family and church. She was affectionately known as "Sis" and loved by all who knew her. Mrs. Clay was one of the oldest members of St. Nicholas Catholic Church, which she and her husband joined in the 1940's. She also was a member of the church's Ladies Sodality.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to Congressman BILL CLAY, Mrs. Clay leaves to mourn her passing a son, St. Louis Alderman Irving C. Clay, Jr. She also leaves to mourn two daughters, Mary Elizabeth Lloyd and Flora Everett. In addition to her children, Mrs. Clay leaves behind 20 grandchildren, including State Senator William Lacy Clay; 30 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

Mr. Wife, Jay, joins me in expressing our condolences to BILL and Carol and other members of the Clay family. It is our hope that the family will find comfort in knowing that others share their sorrow. Mrs. Clay was a very special individual who touched the lives of many. She will always be remembered.

COMMEMORATING THE 50TH ANNI- VERSARY FOR THE AMERICANS FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to the Americans for Democratic Action, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

ADA is a prestigious organization whose achievements should be recognized. It is one of the largest and oldest liberal advocacy groups in the country, with a membership in excess of 25,000.

As one of ADA's past presidents, I am indeed honored to have this opportunity to highlight some of the accomplishments of this most important organization. Also, it is only fitting that I point out that New Yorkers have had a long and favorable association with the organization. In fact, many are founders of the ADA.

The list of New York citizens credited for founding ADA includes the following: union leader David Duminsky, historian Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and former First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt. Also included on that list of notable New Yorkers is a Manhattan Borough President Stanley Isaacs, a Republican.

As a former president, I have first hand knowledge regarding the importance of this organization. During my tenure, 1989-1991, I was delighted to watch ADA grow in membership, stature and program. Our staff and membership doubled during that time and we waged relentless battles against the excesses of the Bush administration.

As an example, the ADA performed a thorough review of the Bush administration's foreign policy record relating to Panama and Granada, and concluded that a failing grade should be issued. Additionally, ADA evaluated the Bush administration's performance on budget issues, and once again issued a grade of F for programs which rewarded the wealthy at the expense of the Nation's neediest. ADA is also credited for telling the truth about the real rate of unemployment. The effort to provide more accurate unemployment information resulted in the release of similar such statistical information by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. ADA's leadership in this arena culminated in our being able to better gauge the number of job training programs required for those unemployed.

The ADA has been a leader on many different fronts, including civil rights and civil liberties issues, nuclear arms control, apartheid in South Africa, workers rights, women's issues, increases in the minimum wage and Federal budget and tax policies. Most recently ADA provided support for the international family planning resolution, which sought the early release of 1997 funds to international organizations.

The ADA is an invaluable organization, whose efforts need to be recognized. Its history is one of influence and effectiveness. May it continue for another 50 years.

HONORING IRISH-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. JAMES E. ROGAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. ROGAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant contributions Irish-Americans have made to our country and draw attention to March as Irish-American Heritage Month. There are now more than 44 million Irish-Americans in the United States, or one in every six persons in our country. In California, there are presently 4 million people of Irish descent.

Irish-Americans have been helping to forge our country from the very beginning. At least eight signers of the Declaration of Independence were of Irish origin, including the Presi-

dent of Congress, John Hancock, who was a descendent of the Ulster family. Also noteworthy, Matthew Thornton, James Smith, and George Taylor were Irish-born.

The Irish love of freedom played an integral role in the fight for American independence. County Derry-born Charles Thompson made the first finished copy of the Declaration of Independence. John Nixon, whose father was born in County Wexford, was the first to read the document publicly. John Dunlop, born in County Tyrone, printed the first copy. Edward Fox, a Dublin native, contributed almost a million dollars—a staggering sum in those days—to help finance the Continental Army. He later died penniless because of his commitment.

Throughout our history, several prominent Americans have been Irish-Americans. Two hundred years ago, James Hoban and other Irish immigrants assisted in the construction of the U.S. Capitol building. One hundred and ninety years ago, Irish-born John Barry was the first naval hero of the American Revolution and is known as the Father of the United States Navy. Eighteen Presidents have proudly proclaimed their Irish-American heritage.

Irish immigrants have always been willing to take on the lowliest, most dangerous and backbreaking of jobs. Their accomplishments include the building of the eastern portion of the transcontinental railroad and working in our Nation's coal mines.

Because of the significant contributions of Irish-Americans, and their continued work toward the betterment of our country, the month of March has historically been recognized as Irish-American Heritage Month. I invite my colleagues to join with me in observance and recognition of the sacrifices and significant contributions of Irish-Americans by recognizing March as Irish-American Heritage Month.

WE MUST PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 27, 1997

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, continuing a tradition begun in the 98th Congress, today I once again introduce legislation which reaffirms the commitment of this body to protect the second amendment to the Constitution.

The Founding Fathers recognized the right of men to defend themselves, and guaranteed Americans that this right would be preserved by the second amendment. At the time of our Nation's founding, guaranteeing this right was an idea foreign to the monarchies that ruled most of the world. James Madison noted this when he wrote that the right to keep and bear arms was an advantage which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation.

The 104th Congress did not bring the type of assault on the second amendment as we saw in the 103d Congress. However, unfortunately, the 104th Congress was unable to reverse or repeal some of the more egregious errors made in this area by past Congresses. Indeed, only the House succeeded in passing legislation to repeal one such law, the so-called Federal assault weapon ban.

Gun control laws have never worked to reduce crime in America. Washington, DC, has